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22 LINCOLN ST
HAMPTON
VA

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Hampton CITY PAGE

Your Tax Dollars at Work

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE CITY OF HAMPTON ON 1ST & 3RD THURSDAYS

Taking Hampton By Storm



Pictured is an employee of a Hampton funeral home on Victoria Boulevard clearing a path through the snow while Jeff Wingo, a Hampton City employee, drove a snow plow to clean the City street. Please remember that while Hampton City employees work hard to clear the streets, businesses and residents are responsible for shoveling their sidewalks and driveways. Have a safe and warm winter!



City employees enjoy a brief break and a cup of Joe's soup.



Solid Waste Truck 884 (with Otis Dabney & Charles Branch) collect curbside refuse routes as scheduled - even in the snow.

It was 4:30 in the morning when Joe Brendle fired up his ten-burner stove to put to work 17 years of experience as a mess sergeant in the Army National Guard Reserves. He prepared soup for 100 of Hampton's "storm troopers" - the men and women of Public Works who salt and plow Hampton's streets around the clock in a winter storm.

Called out of city retirement for special events, Joe puts on "a first class operation" according to Street Operations Manager Dave Reaves. Joe handled two snow storms in two weeks in January, pulling long hours like the folks he was feeding.

All of Hampton Public Works is considered "essential personnel." So, when the media announces delays and closings due to snow, Public Works employees don their inclement weather gear and report for assigned shifts. With over 400 lane miles to cover, clearing roads is obviously a top

priority. Street Operations assign 45 people snow detail and called on a few from other divisions as needed. "Midnight starts a new day," says Supervisor David Melton who sees that those with an early morning shift get an eight-hour day in, as well as time for a little shut eye before being called out again.

With 300 tons of salt applied to roads by Street Operations and others assisting, Solid Waste was able to respond to both January snow storms with business as usual.

Curbside collection on Friday continued as scheduled just before the Martin Luther King holiday and the January 23rd dusting. It will take more than a couple of inches of

snow to postpone solid waste services which has routes of 800 to 1,000 homes day and an extensive list of items to collect-bulk trash, household trash, recycling, branches and tires.

In times like these, there is a team process behind the scenes. The Customer Call Center's 3-1-1 lines ring with questions about city services in storm conditions. Public Works divisions dispatch special operations. Fleet Maintenance runs extra hours to see that equipment stays up and operating through each shift and everybody chips in to do what's needed- from soup to salt. Have a safe winter- thanks to your Public Works crews.



Keep Your KIDsafe

Governor Warner developed the KIDsafe Virginia initiative to provide numerous personal safety resources to students, parents, educators, and public safety professionals across the Commonwealth. These resources will help give young people and adults the tools they need to prevent or respond to dangerous situations that confront too many of our children.

The Hampton Police Division will supply free child DNA kits to parents who will voluntarily gather their child's DNA for use in the event the child is missing. Parents will maintain custody of the DNA to help investigators if the need arises. Instructions for proper use are included inside each kit.

For more information on the KIDsafe program go to www.gosap.state.va.us or call (804) 786-9072.

Anyone interested in obtaining a SAFEkid should contact the Hampton Police Division's Crime Prevention unit at 727-6574.



Crime Line Keeping Hampton Safe

As you may have observed on Hampton City Channel 47, the city actively advertises "Crime Line." Crime Line has proven to be a very effective tool that promotes community involvement in the apprehension of known offenders. The Crime Line telephone number is in operation 24 hours a day, seven days a week. From 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., calls are answered by staff; during all other times, a recorder captures information. Each caller is assigned a Crime Line code number to be used each time that person calls.

Since its inception in 1982, calls to the Peninsula Crime Line have resulted in the recovery of over \$23 million in stolen property and illegal drugs. Ninety-seven percent of the people who are arrested as the result of a Crime Line tip are convicted.

Crime Line offers a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for information leading to an arrest, the recovery of stolen property or the seizure of illegal drugs. Reward money comes entirely from individuals, businesses and other group donations. No government funds are accepted. The Peninsula Crime Line is not a police program, it is a community program designed to assist local police agencies in solving crimes and apprehending criminals.

The Crime Line number to call is 1-888-562-5887.

Participating in Government. What's your issue?

It's that time again. The Virginia General Assembly is back in session. Education, transportation, rehabilitation - everyone has a need, want, and checklist. But how does the average citizen play a role in the process? How does the average citizen understand the process? Who has the time, patience, or money to devote to making changes? These questions represent the continuous challenges between the citizen and state government.

Well, first let's clear up the misconception that these two things are separate. The citizens are part of government. Your representatives want to know what you think. They make their decisions based on the ideas they hear from you. Many representatives spend a lot of money creating and mailing surveys to their constituents.

It doesn't have to be complicated. Did you know there is an 800 number that you can call and voice your opinion on state issues? All you do is dial (800) 889-0229, give the operator your address, opinion, and whether you would like a response from the legislator and then hang up. You don't even need to know who your representatives are - the operators look them up for you by your address.

Besides the 800 number you can contact your

representative by E-mail too. The Virginia General Assembly has a wonderful website that will tell you anything you want to know about your representatives, legislation, and the overall legislative process.

Okay, you know how to do it - now what's your issue? There are so many to choose from ... where should you start?

Within reason, figure out what issues are of concern to you and your family. How about education? Did you know the state each year owes the city of Hampton \$30 million in state funding for education? That's a lot of money that could be used to help educate our youth.

Or perhaps you are concerned about public safety. The state has fallen short on that funding as well.

You don't need to know how to fix the problem, or even all the details, that's not your job. Just let your representative know the issues of concern to you.

If you have extra time you can even track legislation as it moves through the General Assembly. Furthermore, taking a day and watching the state government in action is an enriching experience. Sometimes they are in

session until midnight!

If you still aren't sure on what to think of it all, take a look at Hampton's website (www.hampton.gov) under What's Hot. Or take a look at the City's legislative priorities at www.hampton.gov/budget/legislative.htm for some ideas. The City's page will give you a good idea of what services you receive from the city and some funding inadequacies from the state as well as what you can do to help improve them.

Remember, government includes the citizen, they don't exist separately. Assume your role as an active citizen and the government will be better for it.

• **Constituent Viewpoint Hotline:** (800) 889-0229

• **Hampton's Legislative Priorities:**

www.hampton.gov/budget/legislative.htm

• **Virginia General Assembly:** <http://legis.state.va.us/>

• **Contacting your state legislators:**

<http://legis.state.va.us/CitizensGuide/ContactingMyLegislator.htm>

• **Who's My Legislator:**

<http://comview.state.va.us/whomy/constinput.asp>



February COMMUNITY EVENTS

11 HR Clean Hampton Roads Planning District Commission

11:00 a.m., Executive Towers
This working group of clean community and recycling coordinators coordinates activities and public education efforts related to litter prevention and recycling. For more information contact HCCC at hccc@hampton.gov or 727-6394.

MOMIX In Orbit

7:30 p.m., The American Theatre
Known around the globe for presenting work of exceptional inventiveness and physical beauty, Momix is an irresistible company of

dancer-illusionists under the direction of Moses Pendleton. For more information go to www.TheAmericanTheatre.com or call 722-2787.

12 City Council Meeting

7:30 p.m., Council Chambers (8th floor, City Hall)

14 U.S. Hot Rod Monster Jam

8:00 p.m., Hampton Coliseum
For more information or tickets call 838-4203.

17 The Jivin' Lindy Hoppers

7:30 p.m., The American Theatre
Celebrating the legacy of the

Big Band this is a sensational high-energy dance company based in London. For more information go to www.TheAmericanTheatre.com or call 722-2787.

27 Public Meeting - Ordinance Discoveries at Buckroe Beach

7:00 p.m., Jones Middle School
The Corps of Engineers, City of Hampton, the EPA, and the Virginia Department for Quality are working together to institute safety efforts for Buckroe Beach after three ordinance items were found in the summer of 2002. For more information call 311 in Hampton or 727-8311 outside of Hampton.

Find out what's going on in Hampton ... the topics you are interested in. Subscribe for free to Hampton's eNews: www.eneews.hampton.gov/

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